

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly,

And International Stamp Advertiser.

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THE STAMP COLLECTORS' FORTNIGHTLY is published on alternate Saturdays. Henceforth the journal will be published (on behalf of the proprietors) by Messrs. Plumridge & Co., at the Offices, 63 and 64, Chancery Lane, London.



A very old friend of the "Fortnightly," Mr. J. C. Taylor, in the course of an interesting and most kindly letter, says:—"If I may mention a (to my mind) shortcoming, it is that for some time you have very much 'cut' the auction reports and other matter relating to the current values of stamps. I have only sold one stamp (a high-priced one) for several years, and I have exchanged none at all, but I like to be posted up in the values all the same."

On this and similar matters, our sincere and cordial wish is to please the majority of our readers, but it is a trifle difficult to ascertain what is the real feeling among them concerning auction reports. To publish all prices realised at auction would obviously be a sad waste of space. The amounts paid for "mixed lots," for instance, are no guide to a person who has not seen the lots. Again we eliminate all single items realising less than a reasonable minimum, because there is nothing that "wobbles" in value to such an extent as the sort of stamp that is only just good enough to be given a line to itself in the auction catalogue—the kind of stamp that makes, perhaps, 8s. at one sale, and 15s. at the next. These restrictions alone dispose of more than half the items in the average sale, and out of the remainder we make it our constant aim to select those lots which are calculated to interest the greatest number. Should we find, however, that there is a general wish to have the sale reports extended, extended they shall certainly be.

Regarding "Punctured Officials" the same correspondent expresses the opinion that these should not be brought into the category of collectible varieties. There are many who will agree with Mr. Taylor, and many who will be against his view. We are anxious to hear the pros and cons voiced by readers of the *Fortnightly*, for the matter is really one of considerable importance to collectors.

Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg wishes to correct a statement appearing in an Indian contemporary. In a letter to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* he writes:—

There is a statement in the September number of the "Philatelic Journal of India" to the effect that a London dealer has made a standing offer of £25,000 for my collection. As this is entirely without foundation I should be extremely obliged if you would allow me to contradict it in your journal.

We circulate, with this issue, an interesting inset, "Ewen's Current Stamp Quotations," issued by Ewen's, Limited, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, London. It is practically a complete priced catalogue of current and recent Colonial stamps.

We also circulate an inset already familiar to many regular subscribers—that of Messrs. H. E. Haworth & Co., Ltd., 4-5, Aldgate High Street, E.C., relating to their approval department.

Three Interesting Books awaiting review in the S.C.F. are Mr. B. T. K. Smith's "How to Collect Postage Stamps" (Bell & Sons, London), the second volume of Mr. Earee's "Album Weeds" (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.), and the first continental catalogue yet to hand bearing date 1908—namely, Mr. Paul Kohl's "Briefmarken Reform-Katalog." Fuller notices will appear in our next number.

Varieties of the Danish West Indies Postage Due Stamps.

MR. FRANK PHILLIPS, in a recent issue of "Gibbons' Stamp Weekly," thus describes certain type varieties of the postage due stamps of the Danish West Indies.



I.



II.



III.



IV.



V.

The 4 cents blue shows five easily distinguishable types:—

- (i.) The top of the left-hand figure "4" slopes downwards from left to right, and that of the right-hand figure from right to left.
- (ii.) The top of each figure "4" slopes downwards from left to right.
- (iii.) As Type II. but the first "E" in PORTOMÆRKE is broken to look like "F."
- (iv.) The top of each figure "4" slopes downwards from right to left, and the upper down stroke of the right-hand "4" is thin.
- (v.) As type IV, but the down stroke is much thicker.

The 1c., 6c. and 10c. stamps of this issue also show five types of each value.

1C. BLUE.

- (i.) Between the words DANSK VESTINDIEN and PORTOMÆRKE, on the right-hand side, is a small smudge resembling a comma instead of a dot.
- (ii.) Under the right-hand upstroke of the letter "N" in the word CENT is a very minute dot. This dot also exists in types (i.), (ii.) and (iv.), but type (iii.) does not possess the other points of difference noted for those types.
- (iii.) In the outer of the two circles surrounding the words DANSK VESTINDIEN PORTOMÆRKE is a small defect midway between the left-hand figure "1" and the "C" of CENT.
- (iv.) The left-hand dot between the words DANSK VESTINDIEN and PORTOMÆRKE shows a defect which makes it appear a small circle.
- (v.) This stamp does not show any special point of difference, but can be distinguished by its lack of defects.

6C. BLUE.

- (i.) This stamp may be considered as the normal type.
- (ii.) In front of the letter "P" of PORTOMÆRKE is a dot.
- (iii.) On the inner of the two circles surrounding the words DANSK VESTINDIEN PORTOMÆRKE are two small dots between the letters "RT" of the word PORTOMÆRKE.
- (iv.) In addition to the two dots mentioned in type (iii.) is another dot, also on the inner circle a little way past the end of the word VESTINDIEN.
- (v.) A small space occurs on the inner circle previously referred to, just under "E" of PORTOMÆRKE.

10C. BLUE.

- (i.) This may be taken as the normal type.
- (ii.) On the right-hand external line of the frame is a slight defect opposite the "O" of the figure 10.
- (iii.) Below the bottom point of the triangle of colour above the "O" of the right-hand figure 10 is a small dot.
- (iv.) The inner circle referred to in the 6c. is slightly defective between "RT" of the word PORTOMÆRKE.
- (v.) The triangle mentioned in type (iii.) has a protuberance just above the "O" of the right-hand figure 10.